



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
WASHINGTON D C 20372-5120

IN REPLY REFER TO

BUMEDINST 6200.12
BUMED-24
29 Jun 90

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6200.12

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: TOBACCO USE IN NAVY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Ref: (a) NAVMEDCOM Washington DC 171915Z May 89 (NOTAL)
(b) BUMED Washington DC 022240Z May 90 (NOTAL)
(c) SECNAVINST 5100.13A

1. Purpose. To set up guidelines governing tobacco use within the Navy Medical Department.
2. Cancellation. NAVMEDCOM Instruction 6200.4.
3. Scope. This instruction does not take precedence over other instructions or regulations where smoking is controlled because of the potential for fire or explosion or other specific health and safety considerations.
4. Background. The Surgeon General of the United States has determined that tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of illness and death. There can be no question that the use of tobacco products decrements the health and readiness of the Navy. References (a) and (b) previously announced prohibition on the use of tobacco products in medical and dental spaces. Research has consistently shown that the use of tobacco products increase the risk of cancer, heart disease, and other major illnesses. This is the most avoidable public health hazard we face. As members of the Navy Medical Department, it is imperative that we set the example by discontinuing the use of all tobacco products. This is part of our basic obligation to improve and maintain the health of the men and women of the United States Navy and Marine Corps.
5. Policy. Department of the Navy policy as articulated in reference (c) is aimed at establishing a healthy working environment, discouraging the use of tobacco products, educating personnel about the danger of tobacco use, and providing encouragement and assistance to smokers who wish to quit. As healthcare professionals, Medical Department personnel must provide leadership in encouraging programs and procedures which will decrease tobacco use. To this end:
 - a. The use of tobacco products, including all forms of smokeless tobacco, is banned in all BUMED activities.



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b. Exemptions to this prohibition will be designated smoking areas in bachelor quarters, and officer and enlisted clubs. Designated smoking areas must have adequate space and ventilation to maintain a healthy environment. Additionally, the area designated must not be on a common return air ventilation system. Common shared berthing spaces must not be designated smoking areas. Signs with the words "Designated Smoking Area" must be prominently posted at all specified smoking areas.

c. This instruction does not override provisions of existing civilian collective bargaining agreements until their expiration. Before implementing this policy for civilian employees, activities must, where applicable, discharge their labor relations obligations. Assistance and guidance may be obtained from regional offices of the Office of Civilian Personnel Management. In these negotiations, our concern is for the health of our employees.

d. Medical and dental healthcare providers will inquire about patients' tobacco use during routine medical and dental examinations. They will advise tobacco users of the risks associated with tobacco use and refer them, if amenable, to locally available smoking cessation programs. They will further emphasize to all pregnant tobacco users the special risks to the fetus caused by smoking.

e. All naval hospitals and naval medical clinics will offer group smoking cessation programs on an ongoing basis for authorized beneficiaries.

f. The sale of tobacco products within the buildings at medical and dental treatment facilities where medical or dental treatment is conducted is prohibited. Tobacco products may be sold in freestanding exchange buildings, clubs, barracks, etc. which do not contain treatment spaces, if approved by the commanding officer.

6. Action. Addressees must ensure adherence to the guidelines in paragraph 5. Clinical staff of all medical and dental treatment facilities must familiarize themselves with information about the availability of smoking cessation programs conducted by the nearest naval hospital, other military service medical treatment facilities, local American Cancer Society, and American Lung Association chapters, and other local organizations.



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